

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ARA-10 /088 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1452
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3511

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: IS, AO, SF
SUBJECT: VISIT OF US REPS TO LUANDA

REF: (A) STATE 156359; (B) STATE 158488

1. AS NOTED IN SEPTTEL (NOTAL) REPORTING ON MEETING
OF PRETORIA FIVE WITH BRAND FOURIE ON NAMIBIA, I TOOK
OPPORTUNITY IN PRESENCE OF THE OTHER FOUR TO BRIEF
FOURIE ON MCHENRY-JUNIOR VISIT PER REF B. FOURIE
OBVIOUSLY APPRECIATED INFORMATION PROVIDED AND SAID THAT
MCHENRY'S TRIP MIGHT IN FACT OFFER MEANS OF ASSISTING
IN A QUESTION HE HAD INTENDED RAISING WITH ME ANYWAY.

2. WITHOUT IDENTIFYING THE SOURCE FOURIE SAID THE
SAG HAS RECEIVED A REPORT THAT ONE SOUTH AFRICAN
PRISONER OF WAR IN LUANDA WAS SHOT IN COLD BLOOD BY A
CERTAIN COMMANDANT VELOSSO. THE PRISONER WAS APPARENTLY
ONE OF THE EIGHT SOUTH AFRICANS STILL BEING HELD IN
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ANGOLA FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY INCURSION OF
1975/76.

3. I SAID I WOULD REPORT THE MATTER TO WASHINGTON
IMMEDIATELY BUT MADE NO COMMITMENT THAT WE WOULD
NECESSARILY BE ABLE TO ASK MCHENRY TO TAKE IT UP WITH
THE ANGOLANS. I SAID THAT ANY MESSAGE TO MCHENRY FROM

WASHINGTON WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE PASSED TO HIM THROUGH THE BRITISH OR FRENCH REPS IN LUANDA; BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS BELIEVED THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY IN PASSING A MESSAGE.

4. FOURIE EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING IF THE REPORT THE SAG HAD RECEIVED WAS ACCURATE AND SAID HE WOULD BE IMMENSELY RELIEVED IF WE COULD OBTAIN INFORMATION THAT ALL THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONERS WERE ALIVE AND WELL. HE LINKED THE MATTER TO THE NAMIBIAN SITUATION, HOWEVER, BY STRESSING THE ADVERSE IMPACT SUCH AN INCIDENT WOULD HAVE IF TRUE.

5. I ASKED FOURIE IF MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH ICRC AT ALL, BUT HE SAID THAT ICRC PROCESSES WERE TOO SLOW, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD GRANTED ICRC ACCESS TO CUBAN PRISONERS IN S.A.

6. ONLY DEPARTMENT CAN JUDGE WHETHER INCLUSION OF THIS ISSUE IN MCHENRY'S TALKS WOULD DETRACT FROM OUR BILATERAL OBJECTIVES IN ANGOLA. IF WE COULD ASSIST SAG IN THE MATTER, HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE USEFUL TO OUR INTERESTS HERE. PLEASE ADVISE WHAT REPLY I MAY GIVE FOURIE.
EDMONDSON

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